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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

QUESTION OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

GE. 89-10075

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Statistical summary

I.	Cases reported to have occurred in 1988	1
II.	Outstanding cases	33
III.	Total number of cases transmitted to the Government by the Working Group	33
IV.	Government responses:	
	(a) Number of cases on which the Government has provided one or more specific responses	13
	(b) Cases clarified by the Government's responses	0 a/

a/ The 13 cases will be considered clarified provided the source does not make any observations within six months which could require further consideration by the Working Group.

Indonesia

Information reviewed and transmitted to the Government

162. The Working Group's activities in relation to Indonesia are recorded in its last eight reports to the Commission. 1/

163. On 9 December 1988, the Working Group transmitted to the Government of Indonesia one new case of disappearance reported to have occurred in East Timor in December 1987. It must be understood, however, that the Government could not respond on this case prior to the adoption of the present report. By the same communication, the Government was informed that a further six cases had been recorded as clarified as a result of the information provided in its reply dated 18 May 1988.

164. On 20 June 1988, the Working Group informed the Government that, on the basis of its reply dated 12 August 1987, nine cases were now considered clarified. At the same time, the Government was reminded of the cases which remained outstanding, and, on 19 July 1988, the Group complied with the Government's subsequent request to provide summaries of all the outstanding cases.

165. By a letter dated 30 September 1988, the Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Government for information on another six cases of reported disappearance communicated on 9 September 1988, and informed it that those cases would also be considered clarified provided that within six months the respective families did not make any observations which required the Group's further consideration see E/CN.4/1989/19, para. 27).

Information and views received from relatives of missing persons or non-governmental organizations

166. By communications dated 7 April, 20 July and 12 September 1988 respectively, Pax Romana, an organization called "A Paz é possivel em Timor-Leste" ("Peace is possible in East Timor") and Amnesty International reported cases of disappearance which allegedly occurred in East Timor during the period 1975-1987. The individual case reports, however, all lacked one or more of the elements necessary for processing in accordance with the Group's methods of work.

167. By a letter dated 23 November 1988, Amnesty International reported one case of disappearance which concerned a person who was last seen in a meeting with intelligence officers in Aileu in December 1987. It was reported that, in the latter part of November 1987, the missing person had repeatedly been approached by an officer in the intelligence divison of the special forces and questioned about his activities in support of the Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN) and in his own testimony before he "disappeared" had freely admitted supporting a proposal of the FRETILIN chief for a negotiated end to the armed conflict in East Timor.

Information and views received from the Government

168. In his letter dated 18 May 1988, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations Office at Geneva provided information on the whereabouts of six persons whose cases had been transmitted to the Government in 1985. At the same time, he reiterated his Government's position that it was bound by, and remained committed to, observing the understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and that information was sent to the Group rather as an expression of the Government's high regard for the Commission on Human Rights and as a gesture of good faith.

169. By a communication dated 9 September 1988, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia advised the Group that another six persons who had been reported missing were currently residing in various named villages.

Statistical summary

I.	Cases reported to have occurred in 1988	0
II.	Outstanding cases	55
III.	Total number of cases transmitted to the Government by the Working Group	70
IV.	Government responses:	
	(a) Number of cases on which the Government has provided one or more specific responses	22
	(b) Cases clarified by the Government's responses a/	16
V.	Cases clarified by non-governmental sources b/	9 c/

a/ Persons detained in prison: 6
Persons currently residing in named villages: 10.

b/ Persons found to be alive: 8
Person in prison: 1.

c/ Three cases clarified by both the Government and the source are included in IV (b) only.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Information reviewed and transmitted to the Government

170. The Working Group's activities in relation to the Islamic Republic of Iran are recorded in its last seven reports to the Commission.1/

171. On 24 February 1988, in response to his request, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva was provided with summaries of all outstanding cases.

172. On 30 June 1988, the Working Group transmitted to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran 86 newly reported cases of disappearance, the earliest disappearance having occurred in February 1981, the most recent in August 1987; by the same communication, the Group reminded the Government of the other cases transmitted in the past which remained unclarified. By a letter dated 30 September 1988, the Government was again reminded of all outstanding cases.

173. The Working Group feels obliged to report that, despite all its efforts, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided no information whatsoever on the results of any investigations conducted by the authorities to determine the fate or whereabouts of the missing persons.